

**To:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Kluesner, Dave[kluesner.dave@epa.gov]; Acevedo, Janie[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov]; Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Yogi, David[Yogi.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wed 8/19/2015 6:59:44 PM  
**Subject:** R9 GKM Update - 8/19

Hello all – Please see the latest information from R9 on the GKM response. Let me know if you have additional questions.

**David and Rusty – please double check the water distribution figures below, which came from the EOC in R9.**

Kelly

#### **Region 9 – Gold King Mine Response activities: 8/19/15**

On the Navajo Nation, EPA Region 9 has a team of 36 consisting of federal on-scene coordinators, liaisons, water quality experts, technicians and contractors supporting the response to the spill.

The Navajo Nation leadership maintains restrictions on use of the San Juan River. Daily operations are focused around gathering water and sediment samples from 11 designated locations in San Juan River. EPA Region 9 is collecting and assessing water quality from the San Juan River from La Plata Highway in New Mexico to Mexican Hat in Utah. Dissolved and total concentrations of metals and pH levels are being monitored. The Glen Canyon Incident Command Post (ICP) completed surface water and sediment sampling of Lake Powell at 11 locations, from the Glen Canyon Dam to the San Juan River delta. Surface water and sediment samples have been collected from five locations on the main stem of Lake Powell, including the following: Rock Creek Bay, Gregory Butte, Princess Cove, Navajo Canyon and the Glen Canyon Dam and from six locations including the presumed San Juan River inflow into Lake Powell between Zahn Bay and Great Bend, the presumed “plunge line” where river water plunges beneath lake water just east of Great Bend, Paiute Wash and Bald Rock Canyon.

A more robust water distribution system has been established throughout Navajo Nation. Water tanks are now staged at 13 total points throughout Navajo Nation with a capacity of 32,000 gallons of water at each location except for one location which has a capacity of 16,000 gallons.

Further water and feed requests will be fielded by the Window Rock Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with delivery coordination managed through the Farmington ICP.

UAC Durango provided assistance to local residents regarding claims processing related to the response as part of the following announcement: Local Recovery Center for Businesses, Employees & Affected Landowners in Response to the Gold King Mine Release Impacts to La Plata County, with the assistance of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DoLA), and with the cooperation of local, state and federal agencies, will open a Recovery Center in Durango on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the east end of the La Plata County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Main Avenue, Durango Colorado. Staff from local, state and federal agencies will be available to answer questions regarding financial and/or technical assistance related to the Animas River - Gold King Mine release. Anyone who believes that they have suffered an economic loss related to the event, or has questions related to water quality, crops or livestock, will be able to receive information/assistance from the Center.

**Tomorrow, August 20, there will be a public meeting/Open House in Durango.** EPA will provide an overview of the response and direct people to focused, topic-specific tables. The tables will cover recreation concerns, economic impacts, toxicological information, agriculture impacts, drinking water questions etc. R8 will provide many of the Subject Matter Experts.

---

**Kelly Zito**

Director of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9

San Francisco, CA

Office: 415.947.4306

Mobile: 415.760.9171

**Web:** EPA in the Pacific Southwest

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/EPAregion9>

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/EPAregion9>